Drought Information Statement for south central and southeast Colorado

Current Status, Impacts, and Outlook [Beta Test 2023]

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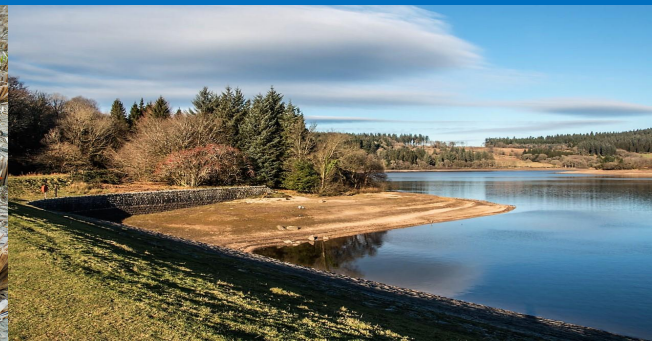


U.S. Drought Monitor

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 Exceptional Drought:** Extreme southern Baca county.
  - **D3 Extreme Drought:** Extreme southeastern Las Animas county into southern Baca county.
  - **D2 Severe Drought:** Southeast Las Animas county into central and northeastern Baca county. Eastern Prowers county into extreme southeastern Kiowa county.
  - **D1 Moderate Drought:** Extreme south central into southeast Las Animas county, west central and north central Baca county, central Prowers county and eastern Kiowa county. Southeast El Paso County, northeast Pueblo county into northern Crowley county.
  - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Lake county into northern Chaffee county, the eastern 2/3rds of El Paso and Pueblo counties, eastern Huerfano county, the rest of Las Animas county, southern Crowley county into western Otero county, northeastern Bent county, western and eastern Kiowa county, western Prowers county and extreme northwestern Baca county.

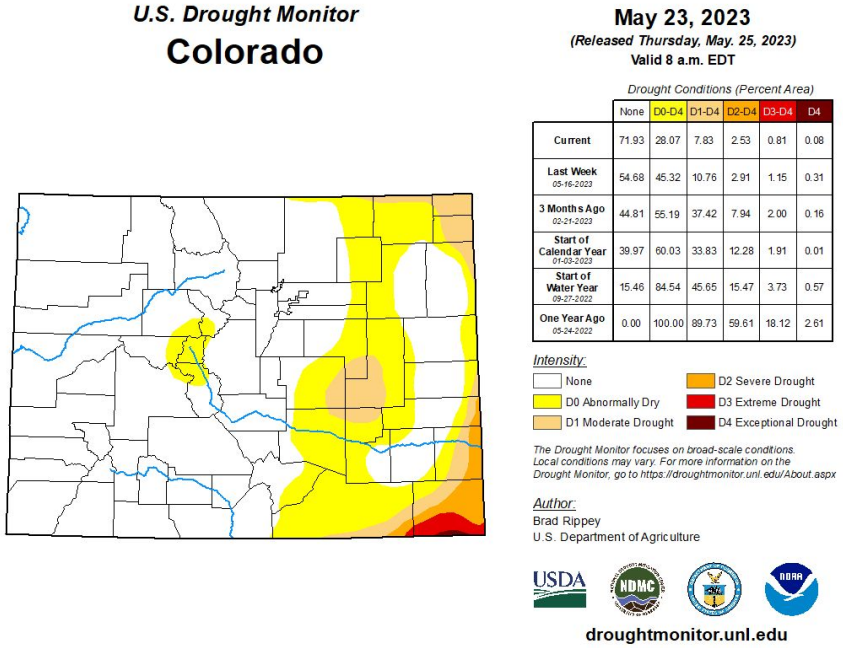


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am MDT May 23rd.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Improved: Most of south central and southeast Colorado.
  - Drought Worsened: Portions of Lake county.

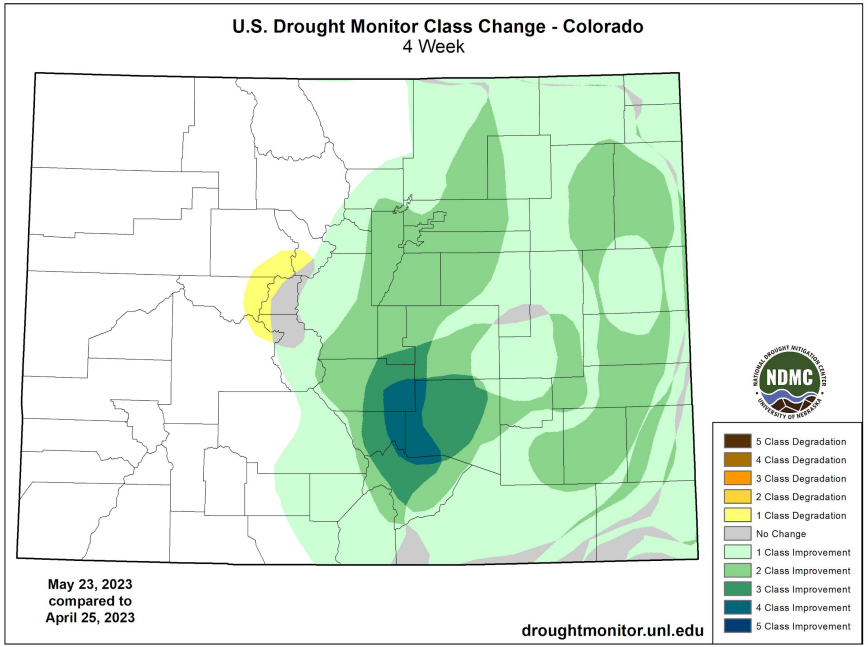
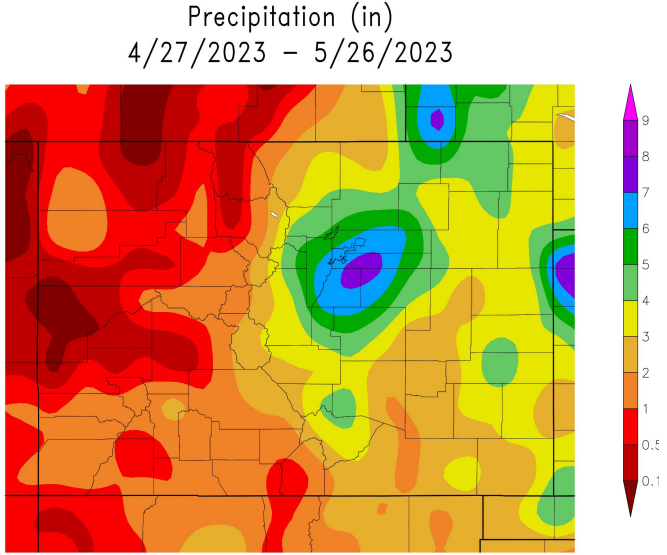


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 7am MDT May 23rd.

Precipitation

Main Takeaways

- Widespread abundant precipitation has been recorded across the SE Mts into the I-25 Corridor and most of the SE Plains, from the end of April through May to date. These areas have seen 1 to 3 inches above normal precipitation over the past 30 days
- Near to slightly below normal precipitation has been recorded across the SW Mts into western portions of the San Luis Valley over the past 30 days. However, snowpack across the SW Mts remains above normal.



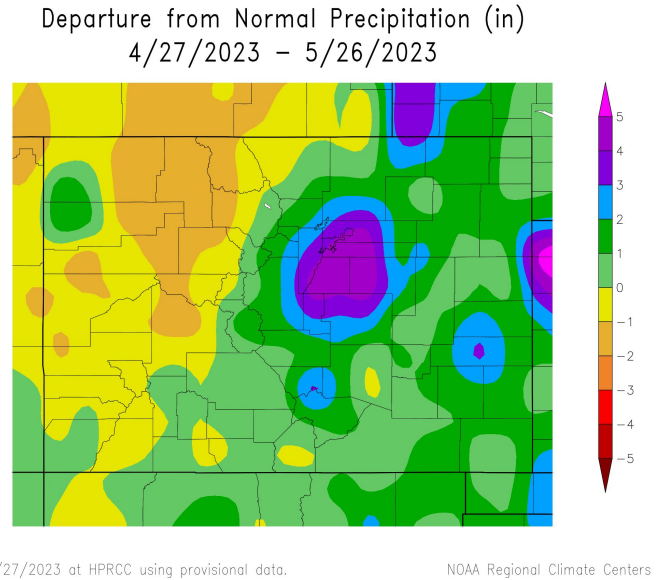


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for CO
Right - Departure from Normal Precipitation for CO
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending May, 24th, 2023

Summary of Impacts

Hydrologic Impacts

- Snowpack in the Arkansas basin on May 1st was at 84% of median as compared to 66% of median at this same time last year. In the Rio Grande basin, May 1st snowpack was at 121% of median, as compared to 42% of median at this same time last year.
- High and fast flows are ongoing in the Rio Grande.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest Colorado Crop Progress Report from the USDA
- Soil moisture continues to improve across south central and southeast Colorado, but still remains below normal across the far southeast Plains.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Abundant moisture and warmer temperatures has allowed for green up across south central and southeast Colorado.
- Green up and continued high mountain snowpack has led to decreased fire danger throughout the month of May.

Mitigation actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Hydrologic Conditions

Main Takeaways

- Current stream flows are at or above normal across SC and SE Colorado.
- Stream flow forecasts in the Arkansas basin range from 61% of median at Cucharas River near La Veta, to 114% of median at Chalk Creek near Natrop.
- Stream flow forecasts in the Rio Grande basin range from 53% of median at Costilla Creek near Costilla, to 247% of median at San Antonio River at Ortiz. .

Impacts

- High and fast flows are ongoing on the Rio Grande and its tributaries across the San Luis Valley, as above median high mountain snowpack continues to melt.

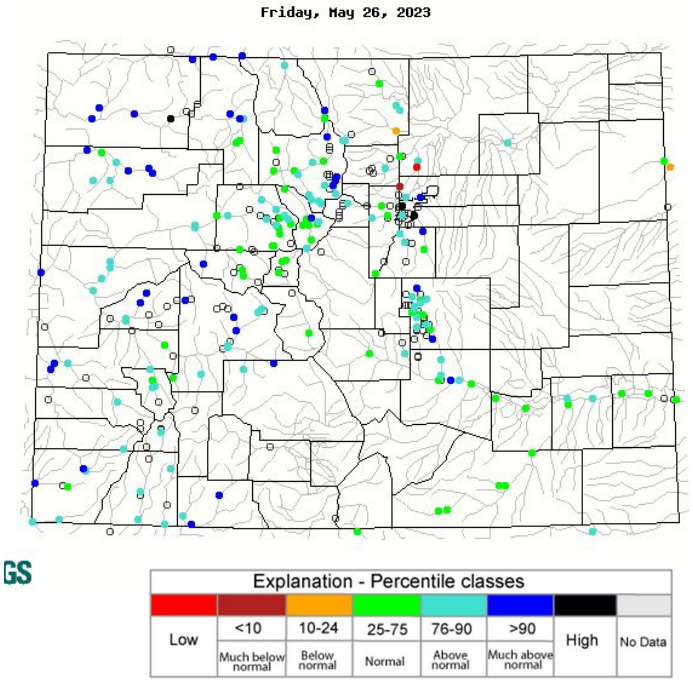


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado valid May 26th, 2023

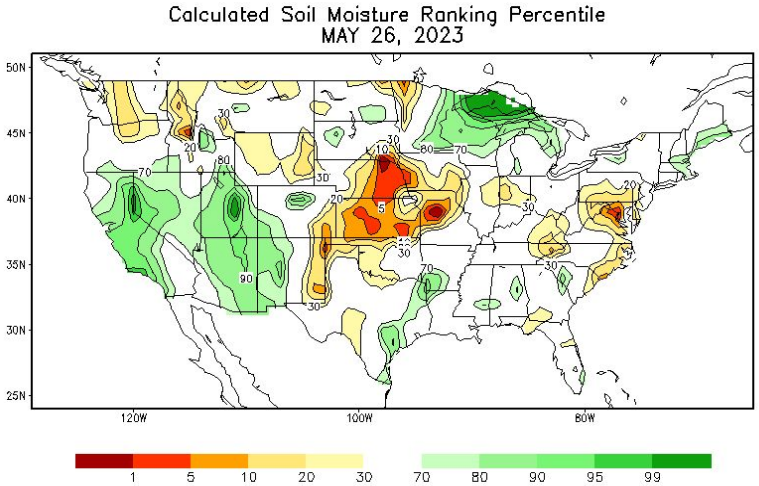
Reservoir Storage

- In the Arkansas basin, water storage at the end of April came in at 95% of median, as compared to 97% of median at this same time last year.
- In the Rio Grande basin, water storage at the end of April came in at 96% of median, as compared to 85% of median at this same time last year.

Agricultural Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Soil moisture continues to improve across south central and southeast Colorado.
- Soil moisture conditions are still running below normal across the far southeast Plains.



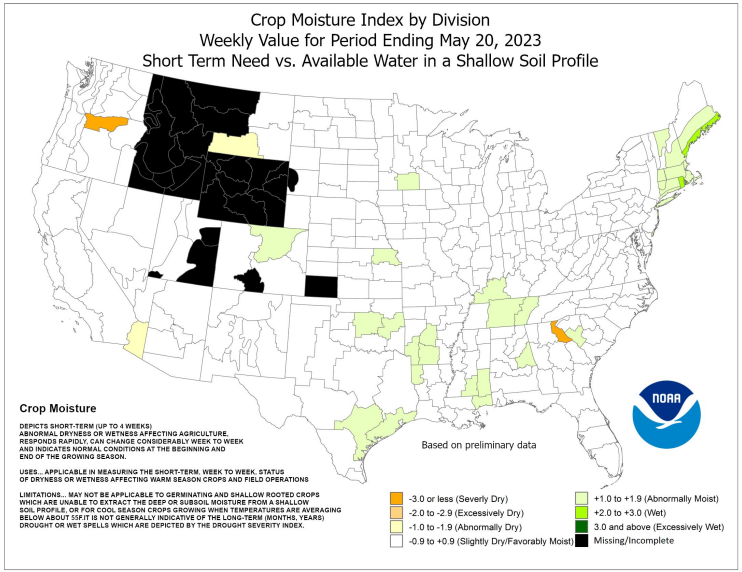


Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid May 26th, 2023
Right: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending May 20th, 2023

Fire Hazard Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Abundant moisture and warmer temperatures has allowed for green up across south central and southeast Colorado.
- Green up and continued high mountain snowpack has led to decreased fire danger throughout the month of May.

Latest information on fire bans and restrictions across the area can be found at:

www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html

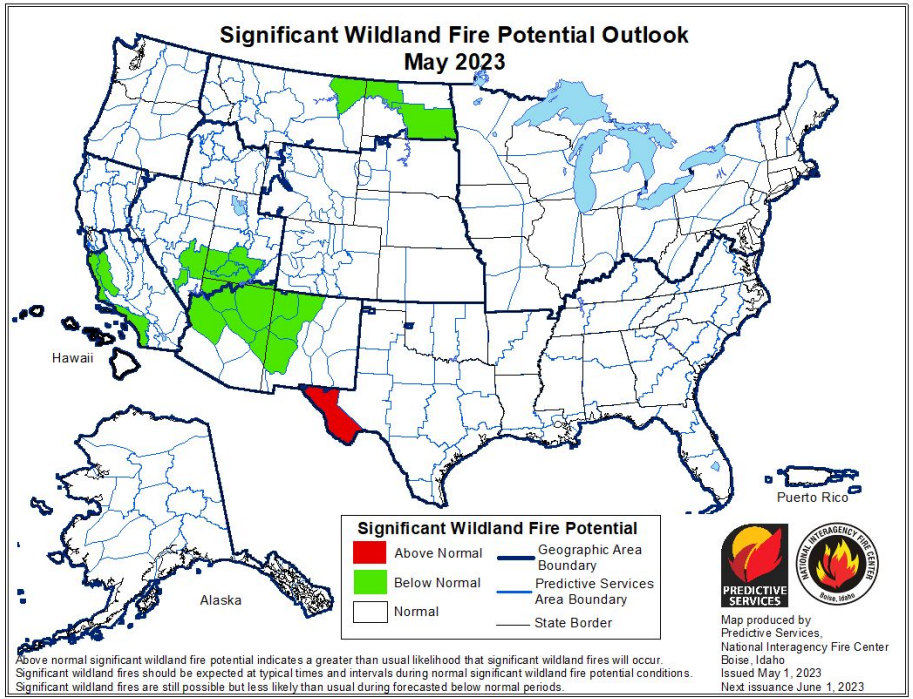


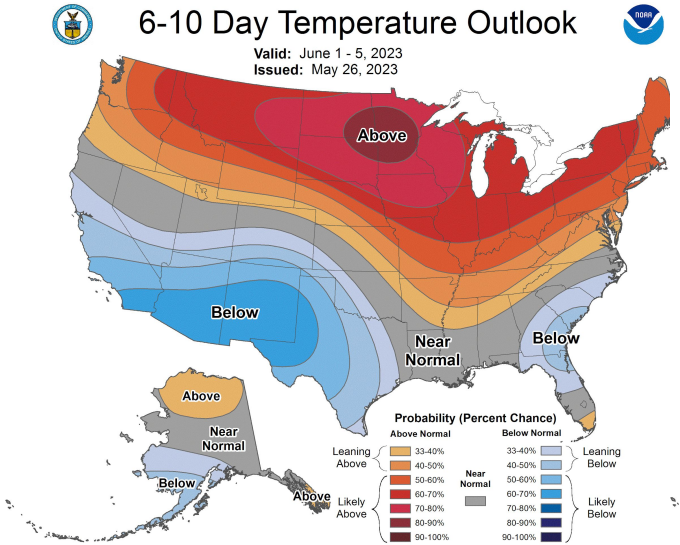
Image Caption: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for May 2023

6-10 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Temperatures leaning to near or below normal across south central and southeast Colorado.
- Precipitation likely above normal across south central and southeast Colorado.



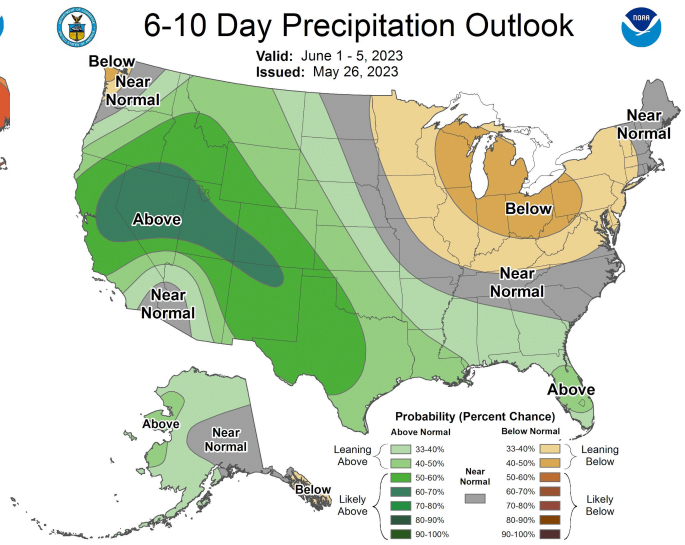


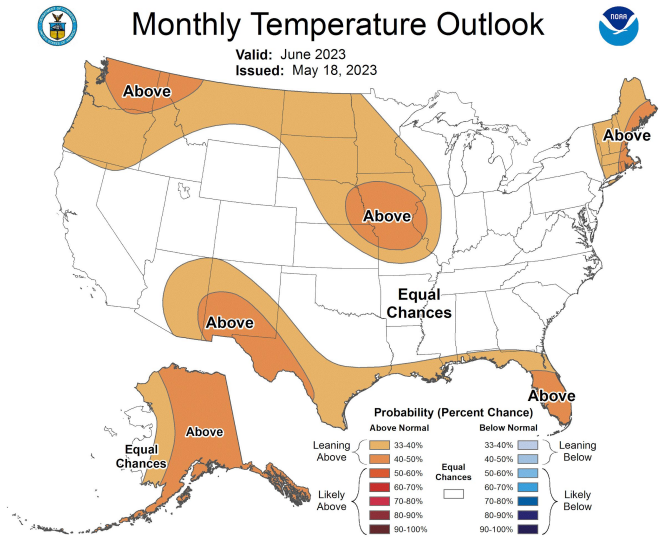
Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid June 1-5, 2023

Monthly Outlooks

Monthly Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- CPC June temperature outlook indicates equal chances of above, below, and near normal temperatures across south central and southeast Colorado.
- CPC June precipitation outlook leans above normal across southeast Colorado with equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation across south central Colorado.



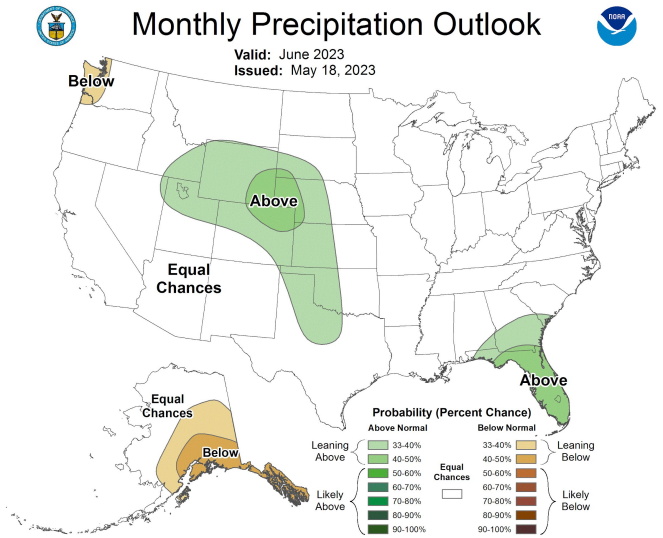


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.
Valid June 2023

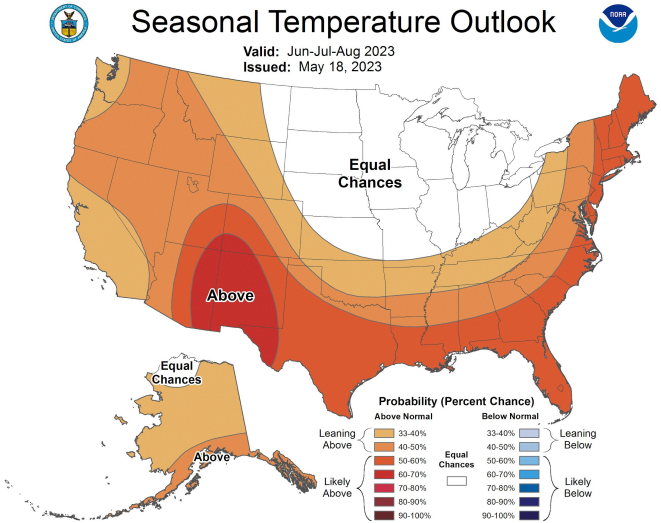
Seasonal Climate Outlook

Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- The summer (June, July and August) temperature outlook leans to above normal across south central and southeast Colorado.

- The summer (June, July and August) precipitation outlook leans to near to below normal across south central and southeast Colorado.



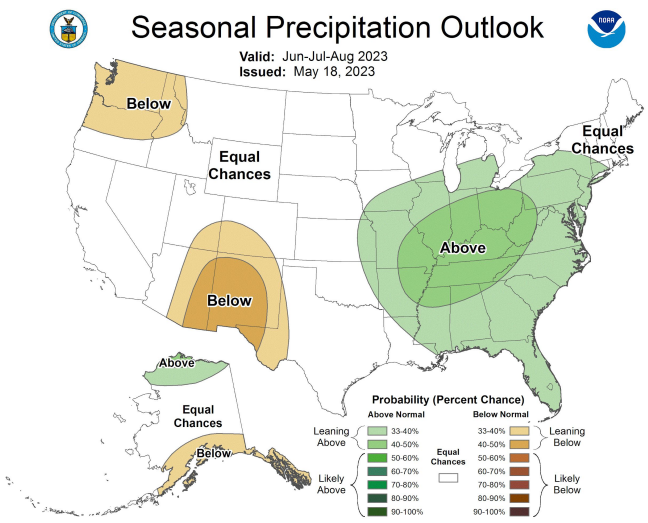
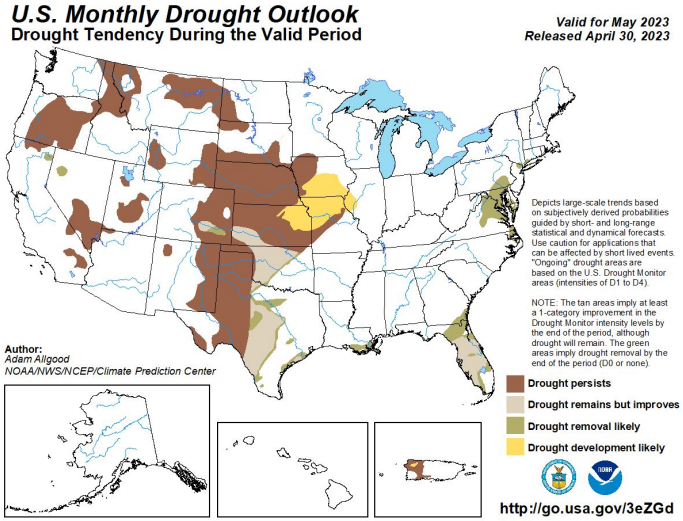


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid June to August 2023

Drought Outlook

Main Takeaways

- The May drought outlook indicated improvements in the drought conditions across southeast Colorado.
- The summer season drought outlook continues to indicate improvements and removal of drought conditions across southeast Colorado.



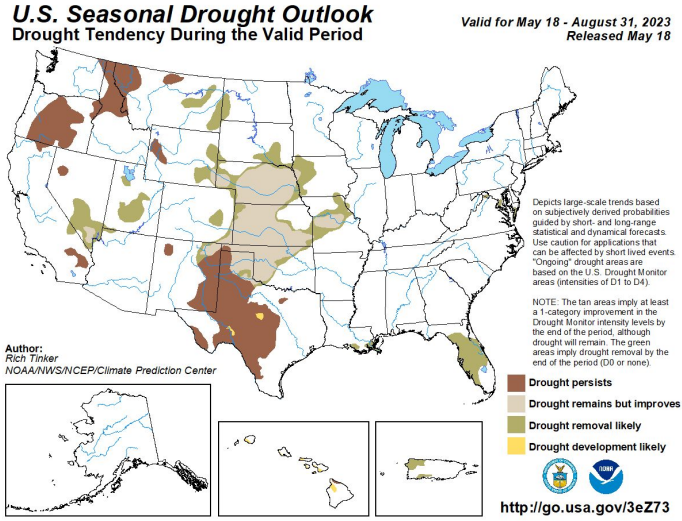


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released April 30th, 2023 valid for May of 2023.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released May 18th, 2023 valid for May 18th through August 31st, 2023.